

*With thanks
P. H.*

THE GLENDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1896.

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THE population of the district in 1891 was 10,156, and it has not changed greatly since then. The number of births during the year 1896 was 233, or 22·94 per 1,000 of the population, an increase of 26 as compared with the previous year. This is a low birth-rate, that for England and Wales being about 34 per 1,000. The number of deaths from all causes was 120, being 24 less than the number in 1895. The number of deaths per 1,000 of the population is 11·8, that of the previous year being 14·17. There is thus a lower death-rate. The average death-rate of England and Wales over a period of ten years is about 19 per 1,000, so that the Glendale rate compares favourably. The death-rate is not, however, altogether dependent on the healthiness of a district. Where there are many young children, or many old people, the death-rate is generally high. In 1895, the deaths from zymotic diseases were at the rate of ·59 ; in the past year they were fewer, viz., at the rate of 39. In England and Wales in 1895 it was 2·13. The number of deaths under one year was 16, being at the rate of 1·6 per 1,000 of the population, or 68·7 per 1,000 of registered births. The mortality of the previous year was at the rate of 96 per 1,000 births. The average rate in England and Wales over a period of ten years is about 147 per 1,000 of registered births. Between one and five years of age the deaths were 6 ; between five and fifteen they were 6 ; between fifteen and twenty-five they were 10 ; between twenty-five and sixty-five they were

42 ; and those at sixty-five and upwards were 42, many of these being over 80. Membranous croup caused 1 death ; whooping cough, 2 ; diarrhoea, 1 ; phthisis, 13 ; acute bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, 6 ; heart disease, 14 ; influenza, 2 ; injuries, 4. There were no deaths from small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus, enteric, puerperal, nor relapsing fever ; none from cholera, erysipelas, measles, nor rheumatic fever. The total number of deaths under five years was 23, or at the rate of 2·4 per 1,000 of the population ; the total number at five years and upwards was 97, or at the rate of 9·5 per 1,000.

Infant mortality is lower in Glendale than in the country generally. But the deaths among children under five years of age are much in excess of what might be attained if healthy conditions could be more generally secured. Exposure to cold and wet is a frequent cause of illness and death among young children ; but a still more common cause is improper food. Milk is the only suitable food for infants, and it should form a large proportion of the food of all young children. There is, unfortunately, often great difficulty in obtaining good milk, and the substitutes resorted to are often very unsuitable. What is wanted is a better supply of milk, both as to quantity and quality, and a more just appreciation of its high value as food. Milk is easily contaminated, and it is of great importance that the byres should be well ventilated, the floors smooth and frequently washed, and the cows kept clean, and the udders washed before milking ; also that the hands of the milker should be washed." Attention to those points would often prevent the deposit of the fine dark sediment so often seen at the bottom of milk vessels, though this sediment sometimes arises from dust finding its way into the place where the milk is stored. The place where the milk is stored is important. It should not be in a living or sleeping room, nor where bad air or smells of any kind have access to it. As milk readily absorbs smells, and is an excellent culture fluid for bacteria, no one suffering from infectious disease, or who has recently been

in contact with people suffering from infectious disease, ought to handle milk which the healthy are to use ; and milk from diseased cows should not be used. Whenever there is the slightest reason to think milk may have been contaminated, it should be boiled or raised to a high temperature before it is used. This will destroy the infectious germs, if any should be present.

Compulsory notification of infectious disease has been in force in the Glendale district for three and a half years. Sanitary officers are thus in a better position to use some means for arresting the spread of such diseases, even though we do not possess an isolation hospital nor an efficient disinfecter. Householders, where disease is present, can be warned of the necessity of keeping their families separate, while the healthy neighbours have notice to avoid the risks of contagion. During the past year there has not been much prevalence of infectious disease. There have been notifications of 6 cases of diphtheria, 3 of typhoid fever, 8 of scarlet fever, 10 of erysipelas, 1 of croup—in all 28.

From time to time the Medical Officer made systematic inspections in the district, besides those rendered necessary for special purposes. A public slaughter-house has been recommended for Wooler by the Medical Officer, and he considers this would be a great improvement. It should be at a considerable distance from dwelling houses, and should be so placed and constructed as to secure free ventilation and abundance of water, as well as freedom from all insanitary surroundings. There are many ash-pits in Wooler and other villages in the district which cannot be kept clean on account of their size, depth, bad floors and want of roofs. Privies are in many cases badly constructed, making it a difficult matter to empty and clean them. They ought to be made so as to facilitate the putting of ashes into them, and the ready removal of contents. Many more cottages have been furnished with privy accommodation, but there are still many without this

convenience. In the district there is on the whole a good supply of water, but it is not in all cases easy of access nor protected so well as it ought to be from the risk of contamination. In the matter of drains for sewage, improvements have been made, but much still requires to be done. Open cement gutters would be a great advantage in many places. Some new houses are being built in Wooler and others are in contemplation, and various general improvements have been made. Throughout the district new cottages have been built or are in progress; a good many others have been enlarged and remodelled, but there are still many inferior cottages both in the villages and in connection with farms. At Weetwood Hill the cottages are bad, and have been reported to the Council. New privies and ashpits have been built, and a commencement is about to be made with a new cottage.

In Lowick the new drainage scheme has been completed and is in working order, and, with one exception, all owners on the route of the sewer have connected their drains with it. This has made a great improvement in the appearance and the sanitary condition of the village. There is still a great deficiency of privies in the village. The water supply has been more abundant than in the previous year.

In Wark there was an outbreak of diphtheria in a block of cottages belonging to the farm, in close proximity to a stream called the "Goat." The ashpits and privies belonging to those cottages having been in a bad state for a long time, the occupiers of the cottages used the Goat for the purposes of an ashpit or cesspool. The weeds and loose stones at the bottom of the stream intercepted much of what was thrown into it, so that the Goat became a dangerous nuisance. Diphtheria appeared in other parts of the village near the sewer passing through the north side. This sewer, with the branches entering it, is the most objectionable feature, from a sanitary point of view, in the village. Reports have from time to time been made by the Medical Officer of Health, and lately the Count

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the GLENDALE RURAL SANITARY District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming
to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1896, in the GLENDALE RURAL
(B) SANITARY District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

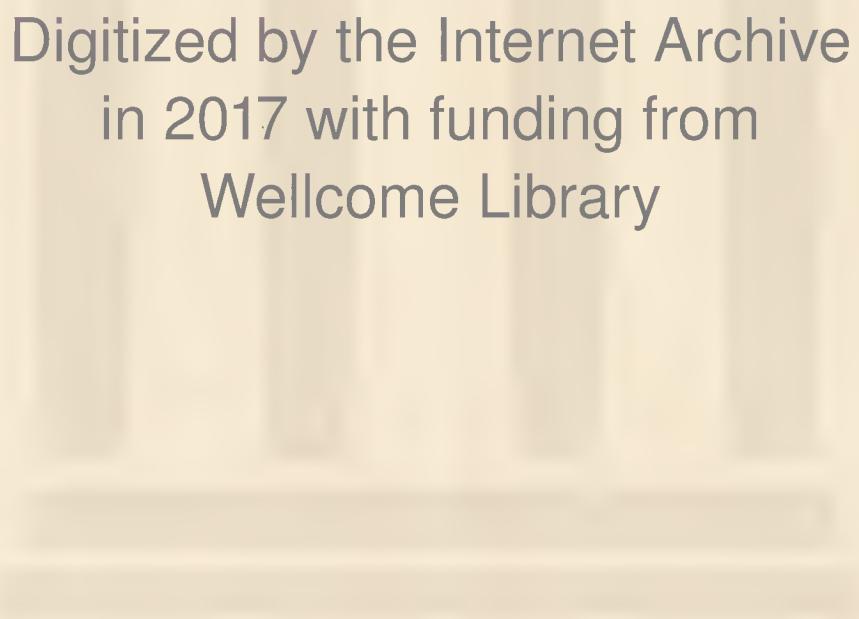
NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES			Aged under 5 or over 5	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.											
	Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1896	Registered Births.		(e)	1 Smallpox.	2 Scarletina	3 Diphtheria	4 Measles	5 Typhus.	6 Typhoid or Enteric.	7 Continued.	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)													
Wooler	5100	5100	138	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	:::	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Ford	5033	5033	95	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	:::	4	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Union Workhouse	23	23	..	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	:::	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	10156	10156	233	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	..	6	5	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Area in Acres, 147,698.

Population (1891), 10,156.

Estimated to
middle of 1896 } 10,156.



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Medical Officer, along with Mr. Bolam and your Medical Officer, visited the place. The County Medical Officer sent in a report as to the sanitary condition of the village. A Committee of the Council (accompanied by the Medical Officer and the Inspector) visited the village, and the Committee reported in favour of putting a new sewer with branches, of sanitary pipes, in the north side of the village, and of covering the Goat and making another sewer, and an open cemented gutter, and also of requiring private owners to make suitable branches. The Council adopted this report and ordered the work to be carried out. When this work is done it will be a great improvement to the village.

At Lilburn Steads three new cottages have been completed, with suitable sanitary arrangements, to take the place of four old dilapidated cottages.

At Lilburn Grange a new supply of water from Trickley has been completed, which is a great improvement on the old supply. Also improved drainage has been made for the cattle folds, thus removing a nuisance caused to the farm house.

At Mardon the cottages have been enlarged and improved.

At Akeld Steads the cottages have been enlarged and improved, and two new ones have been built.

At Marley Knowe it is intended to build new cottages during the present year.

At East Lilburn a new shepherd's house is in progress. The sewer has been extended, and, instead of discharging into a field behind the steading, it is now discharged into the mill-race.

A new water supply has been brought to Old Bewick School, and the farm cottages near it; the latter have been spouted at the back.

At Ingram the cottages and farm steading have been spouted ; also the same has been done at Roddam Home Farm. New sanitary drains have been made from the Home Farm, the laundry, and the gardener's cottage.

At Roddam Rigg the duck pond has been removed, and a sanitary drain with traps has been made for the cottages.

At Pawston two new privies and new drains and sinks for all the cottages have been made.

At Shotton a new water supply, in iron pipes, has been brought from the hill for the cottages, new drains with traps having previously been put in.

At High Haugh Head a new sewer has been put in.

At Shining Pool, Middleton Hall, the shephead's house has been spouted, two new windows have been put in, a new privy and ashpit have been made, and other repairs have been effected.

At Ilderton a new privy and ashpit have been made for the shepherd's house.

At Goldscleugh the shepherd's house has been re-modelled ; a new roof has been put on, and other improvements made in the house. Alterations have been made to the stable and byre ; also a new pigstye, a new privy and ashpit, and a new sewer have been made.

At Way to Wooler privies have been provided for the cottages.

At Kilham improvements to the shepherd's house have been completed.

At Thormington the water supply was improved.

At Wark Common four of the cottages have been raised, and additional bedrooms have thus been provided.

At Doddington additions to the farmhouse have been completed. A new sewer has been put in by the Council.

At South Middleton six new or remodelled farm cottages are nearly completed, and other two are to be proceeded with, and the shepherd's house on the Moor is to be improved. The shepherd's house at Langlee has been much improved, and a new stable and byre and pigstye have been built.

At The Hagg drains for the cottages have been provided.

At Flodden Edge the dwelling-house and other premises have been remodelled.

At Fowberry Moor the well complained of was closed and the pump removed.

The farms of East and West Horton have a bad water supply. Estimates have been obtained, and it is intended to bring a new supply during the present year.

At Chillingham New Town some open drains near the public road and the cottages have been covered in, so as to remove a nuisance which was complained of.

At Heatherslaw, on the Ford estate, three new cottages have been built to replace old and bad ones. The new ones have been built on a better site, and the old ones have been pulled down. A new well gives an excellent supply of water.

The Sandyfords farm house has been enlarged and much improved.

At Ford Mill the cottages have been remodelled and much improved, and new drainage has been laid.

At Ford Hill a new water supply has been brought of good quality and abundant in quantity.

At Blinkbonny improvements have been made to offices and sewerage.

West Moneylaws has had new privies and ashpit built and cottages repaired and drainage improved.

At the village of Etal the drainage is being improved.

At Watchlaw a new cottage has been built, and new offices with new drainage.

The police station at Ford is being greatly improved. During the present year it is intended to bring a new water supply to Flodden Lodge and to Linthaugh farm.

At Letham Hill new pigstyes for the cottages have been built.

At Bowsden Hall farm the cottages have been provided with privies.

At Wrangham further improvements to cottages have been made.

At Milfield some new privies have been built, and various improvements to cottages have been made.

The shepherd's house at Heddon, on the farm of Brandon, which was reported to the Council as being in a bad state, has been shut up, and the shepherd, with his family, has removed to a good house at the farm place.

Minor improvements have in many cases been suggested privately by the Inspector or the Medical Officer, and have been carried out by the owners or occupiers.

The improvements made in the district during the past year are considerable both in number and importance.

The Inspector of Nuisances has regularly reported his proceedings to the Medical Officer of Health, has accompanied him in making visits, has made inspections at his request, and has kept him informed as to matters coming under his notice which required the attention of the Medical Officer.

ROBERT WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

